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Washington, D.C. 20505

Budget

18 SEP 1978

OLG #78-3060/B

The Honorable Warren G. Magnuson, Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

✓ The Honorable George H. Mahon, Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairmen:

In the process of acquiring critically needed leased space in the Metropolitan Washington Area, an issue has been raised by the General Services Administration (GSA), the resolution of which makes coordination with your Committees appropriate.

During hearings on the Agency's FY 1977 budget requests, then Director Bush explained to your Committees CIA's critical requirement for additional office space in the Metropolitan Area. Much of this requirement stems from the need to convert office space to machine space for computer programs, such as SAFE, ADSTAR, and CAMS which have been approved previously by your Committees. In fact, our needs are more critical now than when first explained by Director Bush because of the incessant demands of the machine and the realignment of a number of Agency functions dictated in part by the events of the past two years. Due to an Executive moratorium imposed on acquisition of space, this requirement has been carried over into each succeeding fiscal year. GSA has recently acquiesced to repeated Agency requests and has advised it is willing to proceed with the acquisition in FY 1979, such acquisition, however, being subject to the prospectus requirements established by the Public Buildings Act of 1959, as amended. Thus, the question is raised whether this acquisition should be specifically authorized by the Public Works Committees in addition to being authorized as part of the National Foreign Intelligence budget. My concern with the additional reviewing process is that all evidence indicates that preparation of the prospectus in coordination with GSA and the Office of Management and Budget,

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plus scheduling and completion of hearings, will delay occupancy of the space until the 1981 time frame. This delay will of course have a disastrous effect on implementation of the already approved computer systems for intelligence targeting and dissemination.

It is my understanding that your Committees intend that the cited funds for space acquisition included in the FY 1979 budget be available for expenditure without need for further authorization. With your concurrence, when such funds become available, I intend to advise GSA that the long-planned acquisition of approximately 85,000 square feet of leased space may proceed without the necessity for further review by the Public Works Committees.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Stansfield Turner

STANSFIELD TURNER

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